

JAN 17 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Korean language  
2 has an important place in the history of the State. The Korean  
3 community has contributed significantly to local culture for  
4 decades by bestowing art, music, cuisine, and traditions upon  
5 the fusion of cultures that make the State unique. South Korea  
6 has strong economic ties with the State, and there is a growing  
7 interest in learning the Korean language across the nation due  
8 in part to the popularity of Korean media such as K-Pop and  
9 K-Dramas.

10           The legislature further finds that the Korean language has  
11 an important place in the future of the State. At the  
12 university of Hawaii, Korean is the most popular foreign  
13 language program. Korean language proficiency can open career  
14 opportunities in business, tourism, and international diplomacy.  
15 Offering Korean language courses in public schools can prepare  
16 the next generation for a more globalized world by granting



1 young people opportunities to make valuable transnational  
2 connections through study abroad programs and future travel.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Require the department of education to establish a  
5 Korean language program to be offered at all public  
6 school complexes; and

7 (2) Appropriate funds for the program, including  
8 curriculum development and the establishment of  
9 teacher positions.

10 SECTION 2. The department of education shall establish a  
11 Korean language program that shall:

12 (1) Expose students to the Korean language and culture;

13 (2) Prepare students for future careers and economic  
14 development;

15 (3) Develop a structured curriculum, train teachers, and  
16 allocate resources;

17 (4) Implement innovative and immersive techniques to teach  
18 the current tech-savvy generation of students, using  
19 K-Pop, stories, viral videos, and dance; and

20 (5) Research successful models from other schools to  
21 ensure effective instruction.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
5 year 2026-2027 for the establishment and implementation of the  
6 Korean language program established pursuant to section 2 of  
7 this Act, including the establishment of necessary teacher  
8 positions.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
10 of education for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: Carol Fuhrman



# S.B. NO. 876

**Report Title:**

DOE; Korean Language Program; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education to establish a Korean Language Program. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

